Fermilab Time & Labor Desktop Computer Requirements

Fermilab's new electronic time and labor reporting (FTL) system utilizes the Workforce Central product from Kronos. This system is accessed using a web browser utilizing a software utility to run Java. Your desktop will need to meet certain requirements to successfully use the system. More information about different configurations is listed below. You or your computing support staff can use this information to ensure your computer is ready to access the FTL system.

Supported and Tested Configurations

The configurations below are supported by Fermilab Computing Division and Kronos and have been tested by the Kronos team to verify operation. If at all possible, please use one of these configurations to minimize problems. If you do encounter problems using a different configuration, the Computing Division may ask you to move to one of the supported and tested configurations in order to use the FTL system.

The supported and tested configurations are:

- Windows computers

    - Windows XP SP2+, Windows Vista SP1+, or Windows 7 operating systems

    - Internet Explorer 7 or 8 or Firefox 3.0 or 3.5 web browser

    - Sun Java 1.6 update 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, or 17

- Apple Macintosh computers

    - MacOS 10.6.3 operating system

    - Safari 4 web browser

    - Sun Java 1.6 update 17

- Microsoft Windows Terminal server

    - Windows Server 2003 SP2 operating system

    - Internet Explorer 7

    - Sun Java 1.6 update 17

Working Configurations

The following configurations are not supported by Fermilab Computing Division or Kronos. These combinations may work, but if you choose to use one of them and encounter problems, the Computing Division will likely ask you to use one of the above Supported and Tested Configurations.

- Windows computers

  - Internet Explorer 7 or 8 with Sun Java 1.6 update 20

    - This combination may require you to use the Java control panel, Advanced tab to disable the "next generation Java Plug-in" to allow access to some FTL features

  - Firefox 3.6 with Sun Java 1.6 update 7 or higher

- Apple Macintosh computers

  - MacOS 10.6.4, Safari 5 with Sun Java 1.6 update 20

    - This configuration experiences some cosmetic problems such as adding two new lines to a timecard at times and some controls or buttons have labels truncated

    - Some users have reported problems using the TimeCard save feature, but these problems were corrected by exiting Safari and using the Java Preferences utility to clear the files in the Java cache (use the Delete Files button on the Network tab of the Java Preferences utility).   As a precautionary step, one should clear the Java cache after doing a MacOS 10.6.4 or Safari 5 upgrade.

- Scientific Linux Fermi (SLF) computers
  The only Linux distribution tested is SLF. It is likely other Linux distributions or variants may work as well, but they are not supported and have not been tested.

  - SLF 4 or 5, 32-bit (i386) installations

    - Firefox 3.0.19 with Sun Java 1.6 update 20

      - This configuration often hangs Firefox when you attempt to bring up the timecard.

      - Users with timecard approver roles in FTL are more likely to find that this configuration works.

  - SLF 4 or 5, 64-bit (x86_64) installations

- Firefox 3.0.19 with Sun Java 1.6 update 20

    - 64 bit Firefox does not work at all.

    - 32 bit Firefox and 32 bit Java have the same issues as 32 bit installs described above.

    - Find instructions for configuring 32-bit browser and Java at http://fermilinux.fnal.gov/documentation/tips/browser.java

  o SLF 5

    - Firefox 3.5.9 with Sun Java 1.6

        - A special "fermi-timecard" rpm has been created to provide a separate Firefox browser installation designed to work with the new FTL pages. This browser is configured to work alongside the native Firefox browser that is included in SLF. Details on installing and using this rpm can be found at https://fermilinux.fnal.gov/documentation/tips/fermi-timecard-browser.

        - This solution works most of the time, but freezes or crashes Firefox on occasion.

  o STS 12

    - Firefox 3.5.9 with Sun Java 1.6

        - STS 12 doesn't install Sun Java by default. The OpenJDK that is installed by default is known not to work. See http://fermilinux.fnal.gov/documentation/tips/browser.java for instructions on installing Sun Java on STS 12.

Problematic Configurations

The configurations here do not seem to work and are not supported by the Computing Division or Kronos.

- Apple Macintosh computers

  o MacOS 10.6 with Firefox

- Due to the fact that Firefox is a 32-bit application on a 64-bit operating system (including 64-bit Java), Firefox cannot invoke Java 1.6 as needed by the FTL application.

  o MacOS 10.5

  - This version of the operating system has Safari 4 and Java 1.6 available, but due to differences in 32 and 64 bit variants of each, Safari can't be made to invoke the correct Java version when accessing FTL.

  o MacOS 10.4 and below

  - These environments do not have the required Java 1.6 available from Apple, so they do not work with FTL.

- Scientific Linux Fermi (SLF) computers

  o SLF 3

  - SLF 3 does not work with FTL since Java 1.6 is not available.

  o SLF 4 with Firefox 3.5.9

  - Attempts were made to get Firefox 3.5.9 running on SLF 4, but the necessary dependencies (libraries, etc.) were not present in SLF 4 and could not be easily added.

  o SLF 4 or SLF 5 with Firefox 3.6

  - Due to changes in how Firefox invokes Java, this configuration doesn't work with FTL.

Alternative Access configuration

If you do not have access to a working native configuration to use the FTL application, you can access the FTL application through the Windows Terminal Server.

- Microsoft Windows Terminal server

  o You can use a remote desktop (or RDP) client from Windows, Mac, or Linux to access a central terminal server to use the FTL system. Find instructions on using the terminal server at
  http://computing.fnal.gov/xms/Services/Getting_Services/Use_Windows_Terminal_Ser

ver_for_FTL

Table 1 - FTL Desktop Support Summary

Web browser Operating System	Internet Explorer 7	Internet Explorer 8	Firefox 3.0.19	Firefox 3.5.9	Firefox 3.6.3	Safari 4	Safari 5	Windows Terminal Server using RDP client
Windows XP SP2+	S	S	N/A	S	U	N/A	N/A	S
Windows Vista SP1+	S	S	N/A	S	U	N/A	N/A	S
Windows 7	N/A	S	N/A	S	U	N/A	N/A	S
MacOS 10.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X	X	N/A	S
MacOS 10.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X	S	U	S
SLF 3	N/A	N/A	X	X	X	N/A	N/A	S
SLF 4 32-bit (i386)	N/A	N/A	U	X	X	N/A	N/A	S
SLF 4 64-bit (x86_64)	N/A	N/A	U	X	X	N/A	N/A	S
SLF 5 32-bit (i386)	N/A	N/A	U	U	X	N/A	N/A	S
SLF 5 64-bit (x86_64)	N/A	N/A	U	U	X	N/A	N/A	S
STS 12	N/A	N/A	N/A	U	X	N/A	N/A	S

Legend: S = Supported and tested
U = Unsupported, but has been seen to work
X = Doesn't work
N/A = Not available

Web Browser settings

A number of specific web browser settings are required to allow FTL to work with a supported web browser. These settings are listed below, but the best way to check your web browser is to use the test page at http://cdcvs3.fnal.gov:9000/analyze. This page will allow you to verify the key settings in your web browser and, if you need assistance, will enable you to create a Service Desk ticket containing details about your web browser configuration.

The specific settings required in your web browser are:

1. Sun Java 1.6.0 Update 7 or higher installed and working with the web browser

2. Javascript enabled

3. Session cookies enabled

4. Popup windows enabled

5. Allow secure (HTTPS) connections to FTL web server

The above settings are required to permit the FTL web server fermilab.kronoshosting.com to work with your web browser.

In addition to the above, you will also need to have a working Fermilab Services Account (the same account you use to access the Service Desk or the current FTL software).